

which he published in 1828 [sic]—1837, and for which it will serve as a text.” (*C. r. hebdomadaire. Séanc. Acad. Sci. Paris* 15: 684, appointing a committee to report on it.) The report strongly recommended its publication (*ibid.*: 937–940), provided that it was first indexed. The original remained on permanent open loan to the Academy while finishing touches were made to the typeset sheets through 1843, and while indexing was completed, until 1844 when the result, with “1829–1844” covering title-pages, finally appeared.

Thus Academicians undoubtedly had access to the whole text from October 1842. It is also possible that the text for the “early” Classes, and up to page 112 or even 144 of *Insectes*, may have been “circulated” from 1838 onwards. However, it is quite certain that valid publication under the International Code of Nomenclature did not take place until August or September 1844.

The *Biblioph. Fr.* reported the text as of “57½ feuilles” in octavo. That figure can be reconciled as follows. The first 34 eight-page signatures are equivalent to 17 octavo sheets. Signatures 35–60, of *Insectes* text (not index), are 26 in octavo, bringing the number to 43 sheets. The indexes of all the first five Classes amount to 32 pages (in even numbers), and the texts plus indexes of the last five Classes amount to 176 pages; making a further 13 sheets and the total so far 56 octavo sheets. The balance of 1½ sheets is equivalent to five gatherings of 4 pp., one of which undoubtedly was the 4-page *Avis*, three more the 2-leaf title pages for the three “volumes”, and the other probably the overall title leaves. It is believed that the dedication leaf was issued with the *Avant-Propos* dated 15 November 1837, and that this gathering of XVI pp. was published at about that time probably with livraison 45.

The same *Biblioph. Fr.* entry also reported the quarto text, but without details (I have seen no copy of it); and it closed with its one minor error in saying that the 450 plates had been issued in “145” livraisons.

At an early stage in preparing the present paper the idea of 34 printer's sheets being held in type for six years, and being added to to the extent of a further 40 during that time, was worrying, since some early works were known to have been printed a sheet or so at a time owing to the scarcity of and demand for fount. It has since been realized that France at that period was a leading nation in design and manufacture of type, and no problem seems to have existed. The practice was by no means rare.

Guérin was conscious throughout of the importance of dates, and did his best to help. Besides dating certain critical plates, he published an *Avant-propos* dated 15 November 1837 which said that livraison 46 would be the last, that it would contain the whole descriptive text, and that it would appear at the end of March 1838. That statement also appeared on the wrapper of livraison 45. Then, in his later *Avis*, he explained that in 1838 “almost a third” of his text had been delayed, and that it was finally complete and presented to the Académie Royale on 3 October 1842, adding extracts from the interesting report.

The reason for terming the final issue of the complete text “livraisons 46–50” instead of simply livraison 46 was presumably purely economic. There was a fixed charge per livraison. So five times as much became due, very reasonably, for the total text as was charged for each livraison of ten plates.

#### GENERAL, ARRANGEMENT AND CITATION

The work may be found, in whole or in part, in several different arrangements, deliberate